

Dead Horse Ranch State Park

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Arizona State Parks

JUNIOR RANGER

Become a **Junior Ranger** at **Dead Horse Ranch State Park**! Pledge to do your part to help preserve the beauty of the park for everyone to enjoy! Get your Junior Ranger booklet at the park, complete it, and bring it to a Park Ranger for review. Then receive your **Junior Ranger Button**! Enjoy this sample activity. We hope to see you at the park.

Nature's Dam Builder

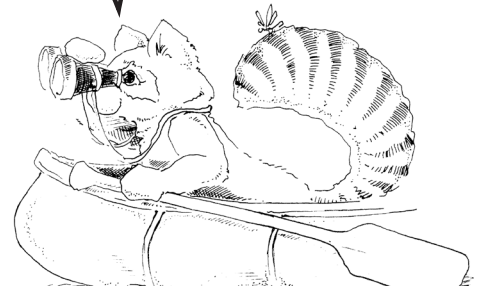
What is a dam builder that changes the environment to fit its needs? You can probably guess that we are talking about the **beaver**. The largest rodent in North America, it can weigh up to 80 pounds. The fur is dense, fine and a rich brown color. Its hind feet are webbed and the tail is broad, flat and hairless. They may be up to 4 feet long and 15 inches in height.

Beaver live in lakes, rivers and streams having cottonwood, willow or aspen trees nearby. Litters of 3 to 4 kits (babies) are born in late spring or early summer. Life span is 10 –12 years.

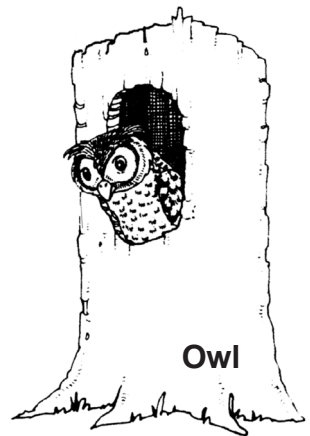
Beaver are aquatic **herbivores** (plant eating), feeding almost entirely on the bark of nearby trees. **Semi-nocturnal** (out mostly at night) beaver are preyed upon by most larger **carnivores** (meat eaters).

Beaver in the Verde River near **Dead Horse Ranch State Park** build dams but live in burrows in the banks rather than the traditional lodge that is associated with the beaver. If you walk to the lagoon around sunset you might see the beaver starting their night's work.

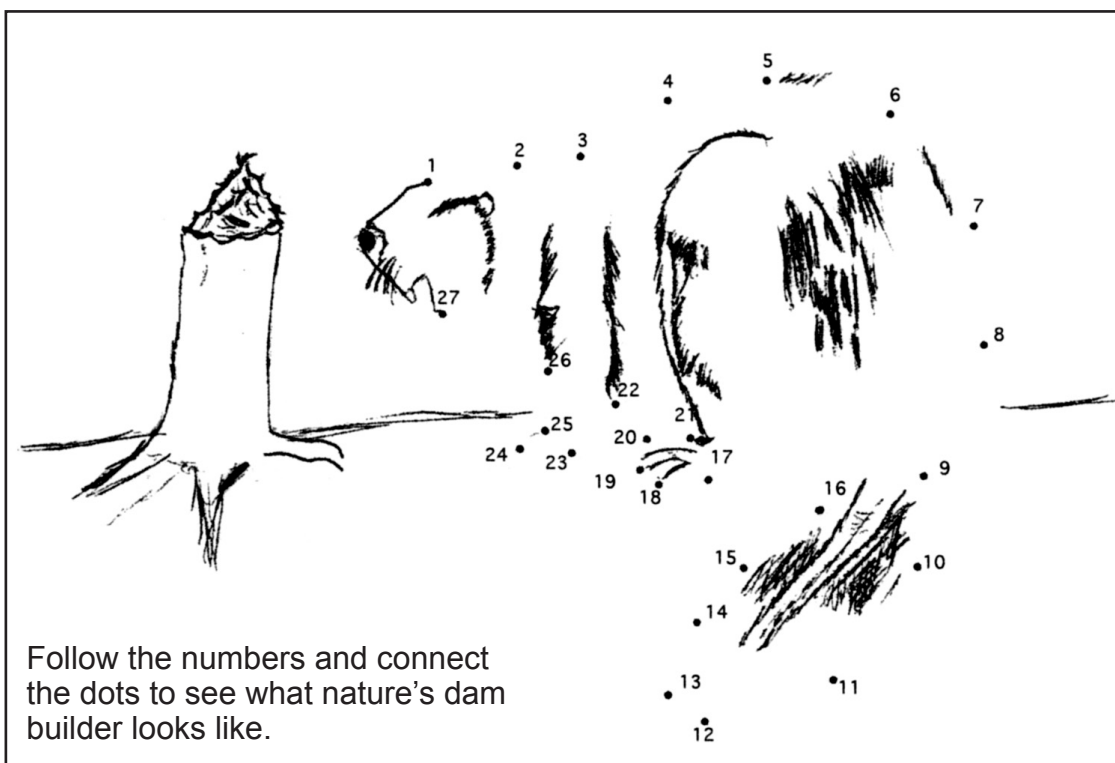
Plants along the edge of a river help trap sediments when the river floods.



Rocky Ringtail



Owl



Follow the numbers and connect the dots to see what nature's dam builder looks like.



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